



REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN
LOVICK
HOUSE SPEAKER
PRO TEM

PO Box 40600
MOD 1 Bldg. rm 108
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
360-786-7892

Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000
E-mail: lovick_jo@leg.wa.gov
Hearing Impaired: 1-800-635-9993

Home page:
hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/lovick

Committees:
Juvenile Justice & Family Law
Transportation
Judiciary
Rules



2004

REPORT TO THE 44TH DISTRICT

Dear neighbors,

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your representative. It's an honor.

A big part of my job is maintaining a dialogue with citizens – listening to you and keeping you informed about issues important to our schools and communities.

Many of you responded to the survey that Rep. Hans Dunshee and I sent to citizens. I appreciate all of your comments, ideas and questions.

No two citizens – or lawmakers – agree on every issue. However, there's a clear pattern in the comments from citizens who responded. You cared more about whether a thing got done than how it got done or who got credit. That's exactly the attitude we need in Olympia to pass strong reforms and get results for the citizens we serve.

Inside this newsletter, you'll find information about issues important to our community – schools, jobs and public safety. I hope you find it useful, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Lovick

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE
- SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS AND HIGHWAYS
- GETTING SMART ON CRIME
- REAL SOLUTIONS
- GETTING TOUGH ON ADDICTION
- GETTING INFORMED AND INVOLVED

JOHN LOVICK • SERVING THE 44TH DISTRICT

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Our state stands at a crossroads. There are politicians who say we need to worry only about today, that we should do whatever it takes – including cutting our schools or mortgaging the future – to restore prosperity right now.

I believe that's a selfish and short-sighted vision. It's like maxing out every VISA in our wallet for a shopping spree, then handing the bill to our kids.

In our history, we accomplished the greatest things not during the heights of prosperity but in our darkest hours.

- The great dams and public structures in Washington were built during the Great Depression.
- Boeing became the world's leading maker of airplanes because workers in our state, including Rosie the Riveter, sacrificed to bring us to the top.

The right choice is to put aside our selfish instincts and work together in a sense of public service to create a better future for our children.

That means working together to improve our schools so every child gets a world-class education.

That means fighting hard so our workers have the best jobs, the kind with health coverage and pensions.

And that means working together to make our neighborhoods and roads clean and safe.

This newsletter, I want to focus on public safety.



SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS AND HIGHWAYS

One of the greatest threats to our state is the rising cost – in lives ruined and in tax dollars – of crime and addiction.

We can't give our kids the education they need to succeed if all our tax dollars are going to prisons and courts. And that's not far from the truth today. Most counties are spending 70 percent of their budget on criminal justice.

That's not counting all the costs caused by drunk and drugged drivers. Your family is three times more likely to get maimed or killed on the road than at the hands of a criminal.

As a state trooper, I'm the last person you'd call soft on crime. I'm not talking about getting soft; I'm talking about getting smart on crime.

GETTING SMART ON CRIME



There's a common factor in crimes in our neighborhoods and on our roads: drugs and alcohol abuse.

Ask any police officer and they'll tell you that 80 to 90 percent of the people they arrest are drugged or drunk when they get handcuffed.

It's the same story with deadly wrecks on our roads and highways – most of them are drunk or drugged.

Last year, our state had 184 murders; 659 people lost their lives on our roads and highways. Traffic accidents are the No. 1 cause of death for children and young adults.

2004 REPORT TO THE 44TH DISTRICT

REAL SOLUTIONS

The knee-jerk reaction of politicians is to say, “lock them up.” I’m all for being tough on drunk, drugged or reckless drivers. The reality is we can’t give life sentences for driving drunk or stoned. Even people convicted of vehicular manslaughter get out of Walla Walla after a few years.

Our state has done a great job cracking down on drunk driving. Last year, arrests went up 35 percent and fatal crashes on interstates went down almost 30 percent. We’re also saving lives with seat belts, with almost all drivers now using them after we passed the new law giving people a choice: “click it or ticket.”

We’ve had a lot of success stopping social drinkers from driving drunk. Everyday people know to drink responsibly, have a designated driver or call a cab. Drunk driving is down, but drugged driving is up.

What’s needed now is a push to tackle the root causes of not only deaths and injuries on our roads but all crime: drug and alcohol abuse.

GETTING TOUGH ON ADDICTION

One out of four fatally injured drivers test positive for meth, cocaine or marijuana.

The same cause of most fatal crashes – drug and alcohol abuse – also leads to most crimes.

We need to fight a different kind of battle to stop repeat offenders, alcoholics and drug users. Addiction and drug use is different. Average people drink in public places; alcoholics and addicts hide their problem.

- Get tough on addicts – It’s doesn’t make any sense to stick alcoholics and drug addicts in prison, charging taxpayers \$25,000 a year to give them food, shelter and medical care, only to watch them revert to their old ways when they get out. We need to focus on making addicts kick the habit, no excuses. Otherwise, prisons are just revolving doors.
- Get everyone to join the fight — Call 911 when you see someone driving recklessly or weaving all over the road. Find treatment for friends or family before they become addicted to drugs or liquor.

PREVENTING HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Another common cause of poverty and crime is a lack of education. Most criminals aren’t educated — thousands of prisoners can’t even read.

It costs you and I, as taxpayers, \$25,000 a year to feed and guard every inmate. The state pen is more expensive than Penn State.

What’s more shocking are new statistics that show one out of three high school students drops out. One out of three. In today’s economy, most good jobs require a college degree, much less a high school diploma. Every kid who drops out of school means more poverty, unemployment and crime.

I’m committed to finding solutions so that

every child has a chance to succeed. That means reforms from the Legislature to focus on this problem and give local school districts and community groups the tools they need to help win this fight.



Students from Archbishop Murphy High School meeting with Rep. John Lovick.

GETTING INFORMED AND INVOLVED

Lawmakers like my colleague Rep. Al O’Brien, a former police officer, have fought hard to not only get tough on crime, but to get smart on crime. We can’t keep building more prisons at this rate without bankrupting taxpayers.

I encourage citizens to get informed and involved. Chances are, somebody you know has been hurt or killed in a car accident.

When you see stories about fatal crashes in the newspaper, write a letter to the editor. Everyday citizens can make a big difference. Mothers Against Drunk Driving started small and now it’s a national movement.

In our state, we need a similar movement to fight the addictions that cause crime in our neighborhoods and so much loss of life on our roads.

2004 REPORT TO THE 44TH DISTRICT

KEEPING IN TOUCH

REPRESENTATIVE

JOHN LOVICK

PO Box 40600
Mod 1 Building - Room 108
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
360-786-7892

E - MAIL:

lovick_jo@leg.wa.gov

WEBSITE:

www.leg.wa.gov/house/lovick

TOLL FREE

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE:

1-800-562-6000

HEARING IMPAIRED HOTLINE:

1-800-635-9993



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Saturday, Feb. 21

Mill Creek - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Mill Creek City
Council Chambers, 15728 Mill Creek Blvd.


Lake Stevens - Noon to 2 p.m., School District
Administration Bldg., 12309 22nd St. NE

REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN LOVICK

**2004 REPORT
TO THE 44TH DISTRICT**

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington State
Department of Printing

P.O. Box 40600
339 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

 Printed on recycled paper